GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:509
ANSWERED ON:19.05.2006
IMPLEMENTATION OF SWAJALDHARA YOJANA
Owaisi Shri Asaduddin

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Swajaldhara Yojana guidelines stipulates that in order to avail funds under this Yojana State Governments are required to enter into MoU with the Ministry;

(b) if so, the details thereof indicating the number of States who have entered into the MOU with the Union Government for effective implementation of the Yojana;

(c) whether State Governments have submitted detailed action plan for implementation of the Yojana;

(d) if so, the names of the States who have submitted the detailed plan and who are yet to submit the plan;

(e) whether despite best efforts of the Union Government in providing sufficient funds to States some State Governments are not showing interest in implementing the Yojana; and

(f) if so, the names of such States and the steps taken or being taken by the Union Government to pursue them to implement the Yojana effectively?

Answer

MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH)

(a) to (f) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement referred to in reply to Lok Sabha Starred Question No. 509 due for reply on 19.05.2006

(a) to (d) The relevant portions of the Swajaldhara Guidelines, pertaining to the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), circulated to all States in June 2003 is annexed.

Government of India circulated a model draft Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to all the State Governments in November 2003. During the Regional Workshops cum Review Meetings of all States held in January 2004, the States requested assistance in preparing the Sector Status Study and State Vision document. On the request of all States, they have been assisted technically and financially to prepare their Sector Status Studies. So far, Sector Status Studies have been submitted by 17 States - Andhra Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Goa, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Kerala, Maharashtra, Orissa, Punjab, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Tripura, Uttaranchal, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal. In the Conference of all State Ministers in-charge of rural drinking water held in January 2006, the States recommended that the MoU should be signed by all States before commencement of the Eleventh Plan period. So far, Maharashtra and Tripura have communicated their willingness to sign the MoU.

Since the States are not in readiness to sign the MoU yet, funds under Swajaldhara are being released on the basis of allocations made annually. These allocations are made as per the inter state Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP) allocation ratio fixed for the year. Upto 20% of the budget provision for ARWSP can be earmarked for Swajaldhara.

(e) & (f) The States / Union Territories that have been allocated Swajaldhara funds but have not availed of the funds till date are A&N Islands, Delhi, Goa, Pondicherry and Sikkim. Funds are allocated to States / Union Territories every year, with the request to approve projects at their level within the allocations. All States are also impressed upon to take up Swajaldhara in the review meetings. As a result, the number of States taking up projects has increased every year - with only 16 States / Union Territories in 2002-03, 22 States / Union Territories in 2003-04, 23 States / Union Territories in 2004-05 and 24 States in 2005-06.

Annexure

Annexure to parts (a) to (d) in the Statement in reply to Lok Sabha Starred Question No. 509 due for reply on 19.05.2006

Relevant Extracts for Swajaldhara Guidelines issued in June 2003:

4. Enabling Environment
4.1 For the proper and effective implementation of Swajaldhara Projects the following enabling environment is essential:

(i) Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) are to be vested with functions and finances, and supported with functionaries to carry out the responsibilities of drinking water supply scheme planning, designing, implementation, operation, maintenance and management.

(ii) Village Water and Sanitation Committee will have to be a committee of Gram Panchayat.

(iii) States would need to enact and implement law on effective ground water extraction control, regulation and recharge.

(iv) Institutional strengthening and capacity development of the State, District, Block, Gram Panchayats and the community level institutions is necessary. State Government should have an effective State Water and Sanitation Mission with a competent support organisation for implementation of Swajaldhara.

(v) State Government should integrate water conservation and rain - water harvesting schemes with the drinking water systems.

(vi) Rural drinking water, sanitation, health, and hygiene need to be integrated at the State, District, Block and GP levels.

Memorandum of Understanding

4.2 In order to avail of funds under Swajaldhara I and II, the State Governments would enter into Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Department of Drinking Water Supply, Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India. There would be commitment of the State Government to the reform principles in the Water and Sanitation Sector and to promote through out the State the Swajaldhara principles. Each State Government would be required to clearly indicate State vision, identified road map and milestones. Each State Government would be required to prepare a comprehensive Vision Statement, Action plan and agreed time frame for initiating and scaling up reforms in the sector. It should address issues like institutional reforms, integration of Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene, Capital cost sharing principles, water tariff/charges, operation and maintenance of systems, and institutional mechanism for implementation, role of Panchayati Raj Institutions, NGOs, and CBOs; water quality; water conservation measures including legislative action. Further, performance indicators will be laid down in the Memorandum of Understanding which would be periodically reviewed by both Central and State Governments. The MOU will take into account State specific factors and incorporate milestones which are in consonance with the reform principles. Flow of funds under the Swajaldhara and Total Sanitation Campaign would depend upon the performance of the State Governments in relation to the agreed programmes, which would be evaluated by independent monitors / supervisory missions.

4.3 In the MOU, stress would be on adherence to the reform principles by all the stakeholders, viz. State Government, Panchayati Raj Institutions, and User Groups. It would incorporate action points, which address the issues of quantity, quality, conservation and sustainability of drinking water sources and improved sanitation and hygiene in the community. Towards this end, action points for all stake holders will be identified, strategy agreed upon and time-frame laid down in the MOU. Government of India, in turn, will also specify the system of incentives and disincentives for the State Governments.